THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Air India has recommended to initiate action to serve notice of termination of the current India-Canada Air Services Agreement and seek renegotiation of the Agreement on commercial and other technical reasons

Airport at Guntur

*236. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any memorandum from the people of Guntur for construction of an airport at Guntur; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Suggestions have been received by Government regarding shifting the present airport at Vijayawada to a new site near Guntur and construction of a new airport at or near Guntur. The suggestions were duly considered. Vijayawada was more centrally located to a number of towns/areas. If the existing airport is shifted, the expenditure incurred on it would be rendered infructuous. The drastic reduction in the Plan allocation for the Civil Aviation sector leaves very limited funds for undertaking any new schemes. For these reasons no action is being taken on the suggestions.

Asiatic Society of India

*237. SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to curb the autonomy of the Asiatic Society of India;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to continue to help in the growth of such independent Research Centres or Institutes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) There is no intention of Government interfering with the autonomy of the Society in discharging its duties and functions under the provisions of the Asiatic Society Act. 1984.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government is interested in the promotion of academic studies and research and has been helping such organisations.

Inland Waterways Authority of India

*238. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently constituted an Inland Waterways Authority of India to facilitate development of inland water transport in the country;

(b) if so, the composition of the newly constituted authority;

(c) what would be the responsibility of the authority and the manner in which the authority propose to function: and

(d) the extent to which the development of the National Waterways for Inland Water Transport is given impetus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORA (SHRI RAJESHPILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present composition of the Inland Waterways Authority of India is as follows:—